

# Tiverton Conservation Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of October 2, 2007 Meeting

to replace September 2007 Meeting

Town Hall, 343 Highland Road, Tiverton, RI 02878

### Present

**Stuart Hardy, Tom Ramotowski, Bob Stringer, Pat Sullivan, Bonnie Cane (new member), Christopher Nearpass (new member)**

#### **I. Public Declaration:** Brian James

- Mr. James, from the open space commission, from open space came to talk about "Jack's Island" in the Seapowet Area. He wants to remove boulders at the "neck" of Jacks Island, which appear to have caused the channel between Jack's Island and the mainland to close off. He wishes to do this to enable normal erosive processes to take place. Mr. Ramotowski & Mr. James will meet with the Town Manager this week to discuss removal and see how to proceed.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes of the 6/19/07 meeting were approved with only one change proposed by Ms. Sullivan i.e. to add "being" to Ms Sullivan's litter discussion.
- The July Meeting was agreed to be a "non-meeting" due to the lack of a quorum. A approval of an "existence of a meeting".

#### **III. Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer's report – All of current budget (\$1200.00) in existence. Mr. Ramotowski submitted some outstanding invoices.
- Discussion of possibility of doing a thank-you to David Webster upon his retirement. At least a card/thank you discussed.

#### **IV. Brief Announcements**

- Announcement of RWU seminars
- E-mail from Bill Gerlach re. renewable energy exploratory group he may be forming. Inquiring if TCC had a member who was in interested in joining.
- Discussion of Tiverton bike path potential.
- Announcement of well water workshop 12/3 & 4.
- Reminder to send agendas & minutes to the council and state.

#### **V. New Business**

- Mr. Hardy announced that 750 units are under consideration in Tiverton at this time. Many of these are in the Bourne Mill complex.
- Mr. Stringer reported on the 9/4/07 planning board meeting. Items discussed were: The Ford Farm Subdivision – Discussion of bond release, drainage regarding, and approval of a letter to the TC to approve a road.

Northside Realty Holdings (former Bouchard Property) – Bayview Condos 51 units.

Discussion of new runoff application. Revised lighting plan to better adapt to the new Tiverton lighting regs. Looking for letter of approval from Town Fire Chief for lighting plan. Comments on landscaping i.e. that there was much less around the affordable housing units. Board requested more landscaping here and Mr. Leary said he would bring a new plan to the next meeting.

Bourne Mill Complex – Will have 290 housing units 87 of them “affordable” plus 40,000 sq ft of retail space. Interestingly the “affordable” units are interchangeable with all the other units. There are no specific units set aside. Has RIHMF approved tax credits and the state (RI) has awarded housing bonds for much of the financing as well as Historic tax credits. Extensive discussions of the plan for the mill Under public comment, Mr. Stringer expressed concern about a lack of knowledge by the developers about sediments and/or water quality in Cook Pond. Mr. Stringer will prepare a letter to the TC from the TCC expressing concern and asking for more (some) study of this. Mr. Ramotowski had extensive Bourne Mill paperwork delivered to TCC.

- Discussion of enforcement of town ordinances. Noise enforcement.
  - Ms. Sullivan recommended the TCC purchase their own decibel meter. Discussion followed on legality. Mr. Ramotowski will investigate prices.
  - Ms Sullivan discussed noise ordinance suggesting that the TCC needed to produce an “informational sheet” for the general public as required by the ordinance. Ms Sullivan to produce a tentative copy to be attached to the noise variance application. Ms. Sullivan discussed our good relation with Chief Blakely re. the noise ordinance and made us aware that she will continue to “discuss” this situation with him.
  - Three TCC commissioners did not renew. We are still down one member and we are actively seeking such.
  - Commission appreciation lunch. 10/27/07-Boathouse 12:00
  - Letter from Frances Moniz re Poplar Street variance/Watuppa Pond. Apparently not a Tiverton issue.
  - Conservation Awards-get suggestions to Mr. Ramotowski. Bank Newport?

## **VI. Old Business**

- Discussion of lighting ordinances. There seems to be better notice of these ordinances. Mr. Stringer mentioned that the Planning Board discussed the Borne Mill project and Bouchard property project and lighting.
- Ms. Sullivan brought up a Stone Bridge Water District report re. lead in the water. She expressed concern.
- Fogland Beach- walk 9/20-4:30. Generally agreed that cleanliness was good. Road to windsurfer beach is in need of repair. Can add no New signs. Ms. Cane expressed concern about beer cans etc. Mr Steadman asked Mr. Ramotowski to get with Chris Spencer, re Fogland study.
- Landfill-Concern about ATV's and cycles.

Next meeting to be held 10/16/07 – 9:15 Adjournment